

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 SAM-01 PRS-01 INR-05 NSC-05

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P 022245Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1147

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 0172

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO, US

SUBJECT: GOP SECURITY MEASURES IN AZORES

REF: (A) PONTA DELGADA 143 (B) STATE 127525

1. REF A REPORTED SHIPMENT 12 (1 DOZEN) MILITARY TRUCKS AND JEEPS TO SAO MIGUEL, NOT RPT NOT 112 VEHICLES. WE HAVE RECENTLY BEEN INFORMED BY FLA SOURCE (ANTONIO GOMES DEMENESES) THAT HE BELIEVES TRUCKS SENT TO REPLACE OLD EQUIPMENT, NOT AS PREPARATION FOR LATER TRANSFER COPCON FORCES. THOUGH OTHER SOURCES HAVE EXPRESSED FEAR THAT COPCON TROOPS WILL BE SENT IN NEAR FUTURE, WE HAVE NO HARD EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THIS TRUE.

2. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, ONLY SECURITY PRECAUTIONS TAKEN BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES SINCE BEGINNING FLA ACTIVITIES (CAR BURNINGS AND WALL PAINTING) HAS BEEN BRIEF INITIATION ROAD BLOCKS, CAR SEARCHES, AND PATROLS BY ARMED PATROLS AT NIGHT. THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVELY PHASED OUT DURING LAST WEEK. OTHERWISE NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER OF INCREASED SECURITY ON SAO MIGUEL. COMUSFORAZ REPORTS SIMILIAR SITUATION EXISTS ON TERCEIRA.

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3. COMMENT: APPARENT LACK CONCERN BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PUZZLING. GOMES DEMENESES CHOOSES BELIEVE
THAT GOP INACTIVITY INDICATION LOCAL AUTHORITIES SYMPATHIZE
WITH FLA AND MISREPRESENTING SEPERATIST THREAT TO CENTRAL
GOVERNMENT. HE CLAIMS THAT SOME LOCAL AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING
MIRANDA, HAVE VIRTUALLY LAID BARE TO FLA ELEMENTS THE
INADEQUACIES OF PRESENT SECURITY ARRENGEMENTS AND INTERPRET
THIS AS ENCOURAGEMENT TO STAGE COUP. ONLY OTHER EXPLANATION
WOULD SEEM BE THAT LOCAL MILITARY COMMAND RADICALLY UNDER-
ESTIMATING FLA COMMITMENT AND/OR THAT PRESENT POLITICAL
SITUATION IN LISBON PRECLUDES SENDING TROOPS HERE AT THIS
TIME.
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